

**Next Meeting: November 2, 2005**  
**10:00 a.m. – Michigan Education Association**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of October 5, 2005 Meeting

10:00 a.m.

Present: Cindy Anderson, Susan Backman, Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Cheryl Ervin, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Donna Herrle, Elaine High, Pat Keller, Linda Keway (for Ric Hogerheide), Dara Knill, Maggie Kolk (for Patt Clement), Jim Kubaiko, Paul Kubicek, Jerry Oermann, David Overly, Susan Peters, Anne Richardson, Chuck Saur, Deb Todd, Jan VanGasse, Colette Ward, Julie Winkelstern  
Ex-Officio Members: Mark Larson, Michele Robinson, Jacquelyn Thompson

Absent: Gloria Anderson, Shari Falvay, Lee Martin, Julie Shore, Jeff Siegel, Barb Stork

OSE/EIS Staff: Patti Oates-Ulrich, Karen Rockhold

Guests: Robert Hove, Sandi Laham, Richard Spring

Vice Chairperson Colette Ward called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The agenda of the October 5, 2005 meeting was considered. Hearing no amendments, the agenda was approved.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the June 1, 2005 meeting were considered. Hearing no amendments, the minutes were approved.

The minutes of the June 22, 2005 meeting were considered. Hearing no amendments, the minutes were approved.

Public Comment

None

## Member Issues

None

## Chairperson's Report – Colette Ward

### A. Ric Hogerheide

Colette explained Ric is uncertain whether he will be able to participate in the monthly SEAC meetings. His status will be clarified following a meeting with his superintendent later this month.

## State Reports – Jacquelyn Thompson

### A. Update: State Board of Education meeting

The State Board of Education is meeting today for its second special meeting since spring on high school reform. In response to a question raised by Cindy Anderson, Jacquelyn clarified that the Board will receive an update from a referent group and other existing subcommittees. The Governor has charged the state Superintendent to have the Board bring recommendations on high school graduation requirements to the legislature next month. They are looking at the requirements for graduation set by other states as they consider what Michigan's requirements should be. Discussion followed.

The regularly scheduled meeting Board meeting is next week Tuesday in the Hannah Building in downtown Lansing. The Board will have a presentation on two special education related issues. First, the Board will receive an overview of public comment related to the *Vision and Principles for Universal Education*. The Vision and Principles document was created by a referent group over a year ago at the request of the Board and addresses a broad-based vision of schools being welcoming, accepting, and supportive places for all students. The intended use of the document is primarily as a policy framework for examining other policies that come before the Board.

The document entitled *Supporting Student Behavior: Standards for the Emergency Use of Seclusion and Restraint* will go before the Board as an information item this month. The document was developed by a referent group at the request of former Superintendent Tom Watkins following two tragic situations wherein students died in relationship to a restraint situation. The issue is emotionally charged and there is still some controversy related to the document, especially surrounding a section titled Prohibited Practices. In addition, there are also those who believe that seclusion and restraint should not be used under any circumstances and others who believe the document should apply only to special education students rather than to all students. The referent group is recommending that the Board encourage the state legislature to enact legislation surrounding this subject so that it would be enforceable as law.

### B. Update: IDEIA 2004 Reauthorization Activities

The OSE/EIS, along with all other states, is required to submit a State Performance Plan (SPP) to the US Department of Education by December 2 that becomes a six-year strategic plan focused on 20 performance indicators identified both in law and

by the US Department of Education. Karen Rockhold is present today to provide a more detailed overview of the SPP and the SEAC's related role. This becomes the major focus of each state agency. The SEAC is the advisory body that will review the targets and activities for all 20 indicators. The SEAC will review the entire document in November. This work will take most of the day.

#### C. UPDATE: MDE OSE/EIS Activities

All of the current OSE/EIS activities are related to the SPP.

Patti Oates-Ulrich reported that the Governor signed Senate Bill 83 on September 28. The bill relates to the expansion of the SEAC. The executive committee will discuss how the additional seats will be filled, but it is already determined that the shared seats will no longer be shared. The recommendations made by the SEAC who initiated the push for this legislation will be taken into consideration and honored.

### Information Items

#### A. State Performance Plan – Karen Rockhold

Karen presented the group with the SPP Organization Chart that illustrates how the OSE/EIS will accomplish the work required by the US Department of Education. There are three major areas that all twenty performance indicators fit beneath; 1) Free Appropriate Public Education in the Least Restrictive Environment (FAPE in the LRE), 2) Disproportionality, and 3) General Supervision. Disproportionality relates to the way children with disabilities are identified and labeled with regard to ethnicity. General Supervision encompasses monitoring, complaint investigations, the hearing system, the mediation system, and secondary transition. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) states that when these three areas are focused on, the special education system will be effective.

Karen explained that when the SPP is brought to the SEAC next month, it will be examined within different categories. Some are compliance indicators – targets are already set by OSEP for these indicators. Others are “new” indicators – these require the Department to design systems and targets by which they will measure and report progress related to those indicators. The SEAC will examine all twenty indicators next month. Beyond bringing the SPP to the SEAC, the Department will post each section involving “new” indicators on the web as they are completed in order to collect public input. For those indicators with targets already set by OSEP, the SEAC will be the only source of public input. Ideally, deeper public input could be gathered, but timelines simply do not allow it as the document needs to be finished by Thanksgiving.

Chuck Saur asked if there was a procedure in place for sharing the SPP with the field. Karen explained that the Department has not yet discussed dissemination methods as completion of the SPP has been the focus. She also explained that rolling out the SPP won't be simply a matter of making copies of the document and distributing them to the field, it will involve translating it into a document that people can understand, which is yet another layer of work to be completed. Cindy Anderson and Chuck elaborated that people in the field will be looking for greater detail concerning how the SPP aligns with the data they are already gathering.

Mark Larson asked how similar the SPP will be across states. Karen explained that all twenty indicators are identical across states; however, the targets for the “new” indicators will vary by state as each state is required to establish their own targets.

A document is being developed for each of the twenty performance indicators that will describe the current level of performance, improvements, what activities are being implemented to achieve the indicator, and what targets are being set to measure progress. Karen then presented a draft document on early childhood transition, one of the twenty performance indicators, and walked the group through it. The document for each indicator will follow this template, which was provided by OSEP. Karen stated that she was not certain how far in advance the SEAC will receive these twenty documents, but that they would be sent as soon as possible for each. She also emphasized the importance of reading the documents as they are distributed. Jacque clarified that the document submitted to the OSEP in December will be the Department’s best effort, but that amendments to the SPP can be made as new learning is acquired over time.

#### Action Items

None

#### Ex-Officio Reports

*Institutions of Higher Education* – Mark Larson – None

*Michigan Department of Community Health* – Sheri Falvay – None

*Family Independence Agency* – Lee Martin – None

*Michigan Department of Corrections* – Michele Robinson – None

#### Committee Reports

##### A. Summary of committee structure ideas from the retreat

Chuck Saur explained how possible topics were chosen at the retreat and prioritized based on delegates who were present expressing their interest in those topics. In light of Karen’s presentation, the executive committee decided that further consideration should be taken prior to forming subcommittees for this year. Paul Kubicek and Chuck then went over the analysis of issues presented in priority order as identified at the retreat. Discussion followed.

#### Member Announcements

David Overly requested a survey of where members live for purposes of carpooling. Colette referred David to the member directory in the notebook.

There are a number of conferences coming up. These include:

- Instructional Professional Development conference, December 1-3 at the Dearborn Hyatt (Linda Keway),
- Learning Disabilities Association conference, October 24-25 at the Kellogg Center (Elaine High),

- Michigan Association of Learning Disabilities conference, October 20-22 at Shanty Creek Resort (Paul Kubicek),
- Michigan Transition Services conference beginning March 15 in Frankenmuth (Chuck Saur),
- Michigan Association of School Social Workers conference, October 26 or 27 in Detroit (Beverly Baroni-Yeglic), and
- Michigan Association of School Psychologists conference, November 6-7, additional information will be posted to the listserv (Robert Hove).

#### Future Agenda Consideration

Beverly Baroni-Yeglic mentioned the new licensing of school social workers and suggested that the body clarify them or make a lunchtime presentation on how it impacts school social workers. Jim Kubaiko stated that Linda Burkhart agreed to make a presentation to the SEAC on this topic should it be desired.

#### Process Check: On building skills for quality advising

Sandi Laham asked the committee what would aid their ability to have good discussion given the new meeting location. Anne Richardson mentioned commented that she could hear everyone in the room speak instead of struggling as she had at the previous location. Jacquelyn expressed pleasure at the technology available in the room. Discussion followed. It was noted that sidebar conversations would need to be limited due to the microphone system.

The meeting was adjourned.

Amanda Whitehead  
Recording Secretary

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Executive Committee  
Minutes of October 5, 2005 Meeting  
8:45 a.m.

Present: Pat Keller, Paul Kubicek, Sandi Laham, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Chuck Saur,  
Jacquelyn Thompson, Deb Todd, Colette Ward  
Absent: Patt Clement, Sheryl Diamond, Ric Hogerheide, Fran Loose

### Review of Today's Agenda

Karen Rockhold will present an overview of the State Performance Plan (SPP) today. The SEAC's role related to the SPP is to provide input on the twenty indicators' targets and activities established by the Department of Education to meet the indicators. The SEAC will need to let the Department know if the negotiable targets set are appropriate. Karen's goal today is to help the SEAC understand and be prepared for the November SPP work. She will present during the information item section of the agenda, but it will be noted that her item is not a traditional SEAC information item. This presentation and the discussion following will take up the majority of the allotted meeting time.

Rather than just introducing guests at the beginning of the committee of the whole meeting, the executive committee decided to have everyone introduce themselves. This will help all members become familiar with one another and also get them used to speaking in the new room.

### State Department Report

Legislation passed that expands the SEAC to 33 seats. Jacquelyn Thompson explained that it would be necessary to fulfill the wishes of the SEAC who initiated the legislation when it comes to identifying organizations to fill the new seats. It has already been determined that organizations that have been sharing seats will get their own. Patti Oates-Ulrich will summarize this information for the committee of the whole.

### Subcommittee Reports

There will be no subcommittee reports, as subcommittees have not yet begun meeting.

### Future Agenda Development

None

### Other Issues

#### A. Update on retreat

Sandi Laham provided handouts to the executive committee that summarized the priority topics identified by SEAC delegates who attended the retreat.

#### B. Identification of subcommittee membership

Jacquelyn suggested discussing subcommittee formation this afternoon following Karen's presentation as she anticipates that the new information will need to be

taken into consideration. There will be no subcommittee meetings in November due to the SPP work, so subcommittees do not need to be defined before today's committee of the whole meeting. Chuck Saur suggested building the subcommittees around the seven negotiable targets being set for the SPP rather than using the preliminary suggestions from the retreat. Sandi suggested integrating the two. Jacquelyn recommended this conversation take place following Karen's presentation, so it was decided to postpone the discussion until later.

Sandi Laham stated that something should be said to the committee of the whole concerning subcommittee formation. It was decided that Paul Kubicek and Chuck would present the data compiled from the retreat and ask for feedback from the whole group as to next steps for subcommittee formation.